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## **M.C. Lawton Civic & Cultural Club; Records**

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club Records
<b>ID:</b>	apap027
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1921-2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.13 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club Records showcase the operations of the first black organization in Albany that was actively involved in community service and educational advancement, which was founded in 1919.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club Records, 1921-2004. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club Records).

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## Organizational Sketch

The M.C. Lawton Club has its beginnings in the Women's Auxiliary of the 15th Infantry, a black unit active during World War I. At the end of the war, the members of the auxiliary decided to continue to associate as they had for the previous four years. In April 1919, the club was founded as the Marie C. Lawton Club in Albany, N.Y., as a branch of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs. The club's goals were to "promote the welfare of people wherein needed, and to assist in civic affairs." [1] The club was the first black organization in Albany actively involved in "community service, educational advancement, race relations and self-development." [2] An important activity of the club was its annual concert showcasing promising young black musicians. The Club regularly sponsored dances to support

causes such as scholarships for college students and Haiti. In 1926/1927, the Club was involved in advocacy on a number of important issues including performances by minstrels in the Albany Public Schools and housing conditions in the city. Out of this work the Club developed a five-point plan which was eventually taken over by the Albany Inter-Racial Council. By 1955, the club had consistently begun to use the name M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club.

The M.C. Lawton Club has close ties to other civic and cultural clubs in the Capital District, including the Albany Inter-Racial Council and the Community Chest. The club is affiliated with the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.; the Northeastern Association of Women's Clubs; and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.

[1] M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. Constitution, 1955.

[2] M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. Musical Program, 1978.

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## Scope and Contents

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The minutes (1927-65, 1971-75) of the M.C. Lawton Club are its most substantial records. The earliest minutes (1919-26) are missing, but the minutes that remain give a good picture of the activities of the organization and how well it met those goals. Only scattered minutes for 2002-2004 are available in this collection. The remainder of the Club's minutes remain in with its members. Especially interesting are the earlier minutes when the club fought for racial justice at the local level in the fields of housing, education, and employment, presenting black speakers such as Countee Cullen to the population as a whole and decrying minstrel shows.

The correspondence (1921-23, 1928-31, 1943, 1950, 1953-59, 1973, 1977-78) primarily concerns routine administrative matters. Although the correspondence covers a wide range of years, most of the correspondence dates from the 1920's, 1950's, and 1970's, and consists mainly of thank you notes or other routine correspondence.

The reports (1928, 1930, 1932, 1935, 1949, 1973, 1975) are not extensive, but these are full of information about the club's activities. The musical programs (1936, 1955, 1957, circa 1964, 1968, 1971, 1975-80, 1985-87) contain little additional information other than the programs, which do include brief historical sketches of the club.

For related records, see the records of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.

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## Arrangement of the Collection

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The collection is organized into the following series:

- 1 Series 1: Minutes, 1927-2004, .80 cubic ft.
- 2 Series 2: Subject Files, 1921-2004, .33 cubic ft.

Series 1 is arranged chronologically while Series 2, is arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

Revision done by Nicholas Webb Encoded in EAD by Amy Schwartz 2006 2012

### Processing Information

Processed in 1990 by Geoffrey A. Huth with additional processing in 2009 by Nicholas Webb.

### Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

### Copyright

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## Acquisition Information

Items in this manuscript group were donated to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, by the M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. on April 17, 1990. An additional accession was received from Carol Praylor, President, in September 2004.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans and Civil Rights Organizations
- Women
- Ethnic Groups
- Albany, New York
- Women--Societies and clubs
- Women in nonprofit organizations
- Albany (N.Y.)
- Clippings(information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Membership
- Minutes
- Programs (documents)
- Photographs
- M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club
- National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (U.S.)

## Collection Inventory

### Minutes, 1927-2004

Physical Description: 0.80

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes, ca. 1927-1930	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 1

Papers removed from 1927-1930 minute book, 1927-1930

	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 2
Minutes, 1930-1932	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 3
Papers removed from 1930-1932 minute book, 1930-1932	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 4
Minutes, 1932-1936	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 5
Papers removed from 1932-1936 minute book, 1932-1936	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 6
Minutes, 1937-1941	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 7
Minutes, 1941-1951	Box 1 (1-Minutes)	Folder 8
Minutes, 1951-1957	Box 2 (1-Minutes)	Folder 1
Papers removed from 1951-1957 minute book, 1951-1957	Box 2 (1-Minutes)	Folder 2
Minutes, 1958-1965	Box 2 (1-Minutes)	Folder 3
Minutes, 1971-1975	Box 2 (1-Minutes)	Folder 4
Minutes and Agenda, 2002-2004	Box 2 (1-Minutes)	Folder 5

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## Subject Files, 1921-2004

Physical Description: 0.33

### Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Albany Inter-Racial Council, 19291956	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 1
Arbor Hill Community Dinner, 1957	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 2
Awards Banquet Hosted by M.C. Lawton Club, 1984	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 3
Awards to the M.C. Lawton Club, 1973197519791983		

	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 4
Child Health Meeting Notice, 1941	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 5
Community Chest of Albany and Rensselaer, 1955-1956	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 6
Constitution, 1955	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 7
Constitution and Handbook, 1999	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 8
Correspondence, 1921-19231928-1931	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 9
Correspondence, 194319501953-1959	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 10
Correspondence, 19731977-19782002-2004	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 11
Dinner Programs, 1954-19561969	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 12
Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., Events Hosted by M.C. Lawton Club, Programs and Financial Report, 199419982002	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 13
March on Washington Movement, Brochure, 1914-1915	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 14
Membership, Correspondence and List, 2003-2004	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 15
Mother and Daughter Banquest, Program, ca. 1958	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 16
Musical Programs, 19361955-1957ca. 19641968-19711975-1979	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 17
Musical Programs, 19801985-198719932003	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 18
News Clippings, 1939195219691973-19801988-1989	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 19
News Clippings, 193919521969-19801988-19892002-2003	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 20
Photographs, Undated	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 21
President, Carol Praylor, 2002-2003	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 22
Presidents and Vice Presidents, List, 2002	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 23
Reports, Annual and Historian's, 2002-2003		



	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 24
Reports on Annual Conventions of the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, 194919731975	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 25
Reports to Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs, 1928193019321935	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 26
Scholarship Recipients, List, 2003	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 27
35th Anniversary Celebration, Invitation, 1955	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 28
75th Anniversary Celebration, Program and Roster, 1994-1995	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 29
85th Anniversary Celebration, Program, 2003	Box 3 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 30

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